

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Cancel claims 1-4 presently pending in the application and enter new claims 5-8, as set out below.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Claims 1 - 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (new):       An electronic segmented sanding pad for a belt sander, comprising a plurality of pad segments positioned in parallel relation to a feed direction, and including rotating means carried by the pad for rotating the pad segments into an oblique alignment relative to the feed direction.

Claim 6 (new):       An electronic segmented sanding pad for a belt sander according to claim 5, wherein the rotating means includes regulating means for steplessly regulating the degree of obliqueness of the segments relative to the feed direction.

Claim 7 (new):       An electronic segmented sanding pad for a belt sander according to claim 5, and including forward feeler rollers mounted on the sanding pad in perpendicular alignment to the feed direction, and compensation control means carried by the pad for

controlling the oblique alignment of the segments and thereby compensating for a differential path delay created by the perpendicular alignment of the feeler rollers and the oblique alignment of the pad segments.

Claim 8 (new):       An electronic segmented sanding pad for a belt sander according to claim 5, and including forward feeler rollers mounted on the sanding pad in perpendicular alignment to the feed direction for rotating in parallel alignment in relation to the pad segments.